IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 48-53.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application.

1.   (Previously presented) A method of detecting the presence of a disseminated epithelial cell marker in a sample comprising the steps of

a) eliminating CD34+ cells from the sample using an anti-CD34 antibody based affinity process; and

b) detecting the presence of mRNA that encodes the marker; wherein the marker is a differentiation specific antigen;

wherein said detection of said mRNA indicates the presence of a disseminated epithelial cell marker.

2-3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Previously presented) A method of detecting the presence of a disseminated epithelial cell marker in a sample comprising the steps of

a) eliminating CD34+ cells from the sample using an anti-CD34 antibody based affinity process; and

b) detecting the presence of mRNA that encodes the marker; wherein the marker is a differentiation specific antigen;

wherein the disseminated epithelial cell marker is selected from the group consisting of guanylyl cyclase C, Cdx-1, Cdx-1, Cdx-2, sucrase isomaltase, lactase, carbonic anhydrase, prostate specific antigen, prostate specific membrane antigen,

cytokeratin 18, cytokeratin 19, cytokeratin 20, ErbB2, Erb-B3, epithelial mucin-1,

epithelial mucin-18, gastrointestinal tumor associated antigen 733.2, desmoplakin I,

epithelial glycoprotein 40, tyrosinase, thyroglobulin, tyrosine hydroxylase, and neuron-

specific glycoprotein

       wherein said detection of said mRNA indicates the presence of a disseminated

epithelial cell marker.

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the CD34+ cells are

removed by column chromatography.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the sample is tissue or bodily fluid.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the sample is selected from the group

consisting of blood, lymph tissue, and bone marrow.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mRNA is detected a polymerase

chain reaction (PCR)-based method.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mRNA is detected by reverse

transcriptase (RT)-PCR.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mRNA is detected by nested RT-

PCR.

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the marker is selected

from the group consisting of guanylyl cyclase-C (GC-C), prostate-specific antigen (PSA),

prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSM), cytokeratin-19 (CK-19), cytokeratin-20 (CK-

20), mucin 1 (MUC-1), and gastrointestinal-associated antigen (GA733.2).

14.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the marker is GC-C.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the disseminated

epithelial cell marker is a cell marker for a metastatic colon cancer cell.

16-36. (Canceled)

37.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the sample is mononuclear

cells isolated from blood.

38.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the disseminated

epithelial cell marker is a tissue-specific marker.

39.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the tissue is selected

from the group consisting of colon, lung, prostate, testis, breast, liver, and skin.

40.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the disseminated

epithelial cell marker is selected from the group consisting of guanylyl cyclase C, Cdx-1,

Cdx-1, Cdx-2, sucrase isomaltase, lactase, carbonic anhydrase, prostate specific antigen,

prostate specific membrane antigen, cytokeratin 18, cytokeratin 19, cytokeratin 20,

ErbB2, Erb-B3, epithelial mucin-1, epithelial mucin-18, gastrointestinal tumor associated

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antigen 733.2, desmoplakin I, epithelial glycoprotein 40, tyrosinase, thyroglobulin, tyrosine hydroxylase, and neuron-specific glycoprotein.

41.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the CD34+ cells are removed by column chromatography.

42.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the mRNA is detected a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based method.

43.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the mRNA is detected by reverse transcriptase (RT)-PCR.

44.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the mRNA is detected by nested RT-PCR.

45.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the marker is selected from the group consisting of guanylyl cyclase-C (GC-C), prostate-specific antigen (PSA), prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSM), cytokeratin-19 (CK-19), cytokeratin-20 (CK-20), mucin 1 (MUC-1), and gastrointestinal-associated antigen (GA733.2).

46.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the marker is GC-C.

47.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the disseminated cell marker is a cell marker for a metastatic colon cancer cell.

48.   (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the CD34+ cells are removed by column chromatography.

49.   (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the sample is tissue or bodily fluid.

50.   (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the sample is selected from the group
consisting of blood, lymph tissue, and bone marrow.

51.   (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the mRNA is detected a polymerase chain
reaction (PCR)-based method.

52.   (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the mRNA is detected by reverse
transcriptase (RT)-PCR.

53.   (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the mRNA is detected by nested RT-PCR.